

Serial No.: 09/778,754
Art Unit: 2875

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed on October 23, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1-5 and 7-36 are respectfully requested.

Present Status of the Patent Application

Claims 1-5 and 7-36 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 12-21, 25-29, 32, and 33 have been rejected. Claims 9, 11, 22-24, 30, 31, and 34 have been objected to. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 25 have been amended. Claims 35 and 36 have been added. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 11, 22-24, 30, 31, and 34 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Drawing Corrections

Formal drawings for the present application are being submitted concurrently with this response.

Response to Claim Objections

Claims 1, 9, 10, and 12 stand objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, and 10 to overcome these informalities.

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12-21, 25-29, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Makita (U.S. Patent No. 4,543,468). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, because Makita fails to disclose an adjustment mechanism or means that is "operable from the external light emitting surface of the housing."

Instead, Makita discloses a lamp assembly for an automobile having a tilting member such as a lamp unit or reflector whose optical axis is adjustable by optical axis adjusting rods. The lamp assembly includes a support member A as a lamp unit casing, a tilting member B as a reflector, a front lens E, a light bulb F, optical axis adjusting rods 1, adjusting knobs 1a, and a

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support leg rod 6. The support member A is fixed to a vehicle body D using set screws 8. The reflector B is secured to the casing A to permit an optical axis of the reflector B to be adjusted with the aid of the support leg rod 6 and a plurality of optical axis adjusting rods 1. Each optical axis adjusting rod 1 is adjustable using the adjusting knob 1a attached to its backward extending end. The adjusting knobs 1a are operable from the back of the lamp assembly, not from the lens or light emitting surface of the lamp assembly.

Clearly, Makita does not disclose an adjustment mechanism or means that is "operable from the external light emitting surface of the housing."

As stated above, Makita does not anticipate all of the features in claims 1, 14, 15, and 25. Therefore, claims 1, 14, 15, and 25 are patentable over Makita.

Dependent Claims:

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-13, 16-24, and 26-34 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claims 1, 15, and 25, respectively.

Added Claims:

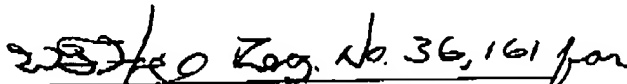
Added independent claims 35 and 36 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason described above regarding claims 1, 14, 15, and 25.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-5 and 7-36 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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